

**COLORED COLONY
ESTABLISHED BY THE UNITED STATES**

Executive Mansion, Feb. 1, 1864.

HON. EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War.*

SIR:

You are directed to have a transport (either steam or sailing vessel, as may be deemed proper by the Quartermaster-General) sent to the colored colony established by the United States at the island of Vache, on the coast of San Domingo, to bring back to this country such of the colonists there as desire to return. You will have the transport furnished with suitable supplies for that purpose, and detail an officer of the Quartermaster's Department, who, under special instruction to be given, shall have charge of the business. The colonists will be brought back to Washington, unless otherwise hereinafter directed, and be employed and provided for at the camps for colored persons around that city. Those only will be brought from the island who desire to return, and their effects will be brought with them.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Emancipation Proclamation carried with it a declared purpose that efforts to colonize the freedmen would be continued. Early in April in 1865 when it was evident that the Union would win the war President Lincoln requested General Benjamin Butler to give his views relative to a large scale colonization program (Butler's *Autobiography*, p. 903). General Lee surrendered his army April 9th, 1865. President Lincoln was shot by an assassin the night of April 14th and died the early morning of April 15th.

There was a Radical faction in Mr. Lincoln's Political Party which opposed Negro colonization and sought rather to enfranchise the Negroes and profit by their vote. The Radical faction in the Congress met in caucus the day that Lincoln died and held that Lincoln's death, by placing another man in the Presidential Chair, "would prove a god-send to the country" (Julian, G. W., *Political Recollections*, p. 255). The Radical faction, which was to obtain dominance in the Congress, instituted the political procedures which caused Lincoln's own Party to repudiate Lincoln's racial ideals and reverse his Negro policy.

We have seen that President Lincoln said that many Negroes had asked him to favor their emigration. Likewise, Senator William Langer, whose bill we are considering, has been asked by many Negroes to promote a movement of American Negroes to Liberia. The Republic of Liberia has considered the Langer bill and has officially announced that it will receive qualified immigrants in numbers consistent with Liberian economy.

It will not be without interest to the historian to note that the hearing in the Congress given to the Langer bill is the first hearing on such measure by that body since this movement was stricken from the hands of Abraham Lincoln.

Minors - Negro

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

On The Question Of

NEGRO COLONIZATION

And

ACTS OF THE CONGRESS AUTHORIZING

HIM TO INSTITUTE HIS

NEGRO COLONIZATION PROGRAM



The data below compiled by Earnest Sevier Cox is of special interest in relation to Senate bill S. 138, 83rd Congress, 1st Session, introduced by Senator William Langer, January 7, 1953: A BILL To provide aid to persons in the United States desirous of migrating to the Republic of Liberia, and for other purposes.

Two periods of discussion were given to this bill in June, 1953. The hearing was recessed until the 2nd Session of the Congress, beginning in January, 1954.

The acts of Congress may be found in Statutes at Large (Little Brown and Company). President Lincoln's instruction to Secretary Stanton may be found in "A Compilation of the MESSAGES AND PAPERS of the PRESIDENTS, 1789-1897", Volume VI, p. 232.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESS ON HENRY CLAY (1852)

Mr. Lincoln referred to Mr. Clay's sustained effort in support of the cause of Negro colonization and said that if the Negro should be restored to his fatherland none other of Mr. Clay's labors "will have been more valuable to his country and his kind."

DEBATES WITH DOUGLAS

October 16th, 1854—Lincoln favored a program that would gradually free the slaves and gradually colonize them.

June 26th, 1857—Lincoln said that separation of the races "if effected at all, must be effected by colonization . . . The enterprise is a difficult one: but 'where there is a will there is a way', and what colonization needs most is a hearty will."

September 18th, 1858—Lincoln said that there was a physical difference between the white and black races that he believed would forbid the two races living together peacefully.

FIRST ANNUAL MESSAGE

He referred to an act of Congress providing for the liberation of slaves belonging to persons in arms against the Government and to the possibility of certain States liberating their slaves, and recommended that Congress take steps to colonize them.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In approving the act President Lincoln announced to the Congress that he was gratified that the two principles of compensation and colonization were both recognized and practically applied in the provisions of the act.

THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Includes, "And that the effort to colonize persons of African descent with their consent . . . will be continued."

SECOND ANNUAL MESSAGE

President Lincoln said, "Applications have been made to me by many free Americans of African descent to favor their emigration, with a view of such colonization as was contemplated in recent acts of Congress."

ACTS OF CONGRESS IN RELATION TO NEGRO COLONIZATION

AN ACT freeing the slaves in the District of Columbia (Approved, April 16, 1862).

SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, is hereby appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the President of the United States, to aid in the colonization and settlement of such free persons of African descent, now residing in said District, including those to be liberated by this act, as may desire to emigrate to the Republics of Hayti or Liberia, or such other country beyond the limits of the United States as the President may determine:

Provided, the expenditure for this purpose shall not exceed one hundred dollars for each emigrant.

AN ACT to amend an Act entitled "An Act in addition to the Acts Prohibiting the Slave Trade." (Approved, June 16, 1862)

The President was authorized to select agents on the coast of Africa and deliver to them recaptured Africans. He selected the American Colonization Society as his agent, that organization having colonized Liberia. And when withdrawing from political control of that country had reserved important areas for future settlement. Congress, by joint resolution February 23, 1865, sought to adjust and settle the accounts of the American Colonization Society "for support of recaptured Africans in Liberia, under contracts made for that purpose under the authority of the act of Congress approved, June 16, 1862."

SEC. 2. The President was authorized to issue instructions to the commanders of armed vessels of the United States to so deliver recaptured Africans to his agents on the coast of Africa.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, authorized to take immediate measures in his discretion in accordance with existing law, and with the provisions of the first section of this act, for removing to the coast of Africa, and there providing with food, shelter, and clothing for a term not exceeding one year from the date of landing in Africa the captured Africans recently landed in the southern district of Florida, and that the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars be appropriated for that purpose out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated by law.

AN ACT freeing slaves used by the enemy for military purposes. (Approved, July 11, 1862)

SEC. 12. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to make provision for the transportation, colonization, and settlement, in some tropical country beyond the limits of the United States, of such persons of the African race, made free by the provisions of this act, as may be willing to emigrate, having first obtained the consent of the Government of said country to their protection and settlement within the same, with all the rights and privileges of freemen.

President Lincoln set up a Bureau of Emigration in the Department of the Interior. At one time he had believed that certain Latin American nations would take our Negroes as colonists. He said that Central America was only one-fourth the distance to Liberia. In his Second Annual Message he stated that many Negroes had volunteered for colonization but that Latin American nations would not agree to such a venture. The great Civil War was on and a movement to Liberia under protection of the armed vessels of the United States would have added to the burdens being borne by the Federal Government. The President did, however, obtain an island off the coast of San Domingo and planted a small colony there. The emigrants complained that a certain worm was eating their feet and asked to be returned to the United States. Below, is the letter of instruction by the President ordering the return of the colonists.